

HELP NEEDED FOR PATIENTS, NOT TRIAL LAWYERS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we will have a decision in the days to come. Do we opt for a genuine Patients' Bill of Rights, or do we instead follow the siren song of the trial lawyer's right to bill. Make no mistake, when Americans are sick, they do not want to deal with Washington bureaucrats or with insurance company bureaucrats. They want help from medical professionals.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is simple. Are we going to allow patients seeking relief to end up in court or to be treated in a clinic? By the way, do we want to destroy health insurance as we know it? That may be the very serious unintended consequence of people who mean well but seem to put their faith in healing more in trial lawyers than they do in physicians.

Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent upon this House to pass a bill that is a help to patients, rather than a boom to the trial lawyer's lobby. Let us opt for the plan of the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) to truly help patients rather than trial lawyers.

AMERICAN FARMLAND STEWARDSHIP ACT

(Mr. PUTNAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce important legislation to assist American farmers and ranchers in achieving valuable conservation goals in the protection of our natural resources.

Today's farmers and ranchers are facing increasing challenges in protecting environmentally sensitive lands while ensuring an abundant, safe food supply. Greater access to conservation programs must be a part of our agricultural policy.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the American Farmland Stewardship Act of 2001 which will help foster responsible care and stewardship of our natural resources by agricultural producers. The Act provides incentive-based initiatives aimed at assisting farmers in meeting environmental requirements and the protection of endangered habitat, wetlands, improved water quality and water access, treatment of discharge, deterrence of invasive species and other important environmental challenges.

The American Farmland Stewardship Act will ensure greater protection of natural resources by providing economic assistance to agricultural producers to improve and protect natural resources and assist farmers and ranchers in staying competitive in the world market.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in co-sponsoring the American Farmland Stewardship Act.

ENERGY SECURITY ACT

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, we are facing an energy shortage. While our demand is continually growing, our production is slowing. Take natural gas as an example. Our demand for natural gas is actually outstripping our demand for oil. By 2020, we will consume 62 percent more natural gas than we do today. We need to act responsibly, and we need to act quickly. We need to open some of our public lands to exploration for natural gas, and we need to build pipelines to deliver it.

Passing the legislation proposed by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), chairman of the Committee on Resources, last night was a step forward in the right direction.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well this morning in strong support of the Community Solutions Act that we will consider shortly today. As our President said just last week, we in Washington cannot make Americans love their neighbors, but we can make resources available to those who have a heart for service, but not a wallet. For too long official Washington has used strict legalism as their excuse for walking by on the other side of the road, denying recognition and assistance to the faith-based institutions who have been making a profound difference in the communities we serve for over 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Solutions Act will bring this era of discrimination to an end. It will empower Americans and institutions of faith by increasing charitable giving through tax deductions, expanding charitable choice to allow religious organizations funds on an equal footing with non-religious institutions and other reforms.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 7 and let a new era of cooperation between public and private organizations that battle poverty and social maladies to begin.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 47, answered "present" 1, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 236]

YEAS—372

Abercrombie	Davis (FL)	Horn
Ackerman	Davis (IL)	Hostettler
Akin	Davis, Jo Ann	Houghton
Allen	Davis, Tom	Hoyer
Andrews	Deal	Hulshof
Armey	DeGette	Hunter
Baca	Delahunt	Hyde
Bachus	DeLauro	Inslee
Baird	DeLay	Isakson
Baker	DeMint	Israel
Baldacci	Deutsch	Issa
Baldwin	Diaz-Balart	Jackson (IL)
Ballenger	Dicks	Jackson-Lee
Barcia	Dingell	(TX)
Barr	Doggett	Jefferson
Barrett	Dooley	Jenkins
Bartlett	Doolittle	John
Barton	Doyle	Johnson (CT)
Bass	Dreier	Johnson (IL)
Becerra	Duncan	Johnson, Sam
Bentsen	Dunn	Jones (NC)
Bereuter	Edwards	Kanjorski
Berkley	Ehlers	Kaptur
Berman	Ehrlich	Keller
Berry	Emerson	Kelly
Biggert	Engel	Kennedy (RI)
Billirakis	Eshoo	Kerns
Bishop	Etheridge	Kildee
Blagojevich	Evans	Kilpatrick
Blumenauer	Everett	Kind (WI)
Blunt	Farr	King (NY)
Boehlert	Fattah	Kingston
Boehner	Ferguson	Kirk
Bonilla	Flake	Kleczka
Bonior	Fletcher	Knollenberg
Bono	Foley	Kolbe
Boswell	Forbes	LaFalce
Boucher	Ford	LaHood
Boyd	Frank	Lampson
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Langevin
Brown (FL)	Frost	Lantos
Brown (OH)	Gallegly	Largent
Brown (SC)	Ganske	Larson (CT)
Bryant	Gekas	Latham
Burr	Gephardt	LaTourette
Burton	Gilchrest	Leach
Buyer	Gillmor	Lee
Callahan	Gilman	Levin
Calvert	Gonzalez	Lewis (CA)
Camp	Goode	Lewis (GA)
Cannon	Goodlatte	Lewis (KY)
Cantor	Gordon	Linder
Capito	Graham	Lipinski
Capps	Granger	Lofgren
Cardin	Graves	Lowey
Carson (IN)	Green (TX)	Lucas (KY)
Carson (OK)	Green (WI)	Lucas (OK)
Castle	Greenwood	Luther
Chabot	Grucci	Maloney (NY)
Chambliss	Hall (OH)	Manzullo
Clay	Hall (TX)	Markey
Clayton	Hansen	Mascara
Clement	Harman	Matheson
Clyburn	Hart	Matsui
Coble	Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (MO)
Collins	Hastings (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Combest	Hayes	McCollum
Condit	Hayworth	McCrery
Conyers	Herger	McHugh
Cooksey	Hill	McInnis
Cox	Hinchey	McIntyre
Coyne	Hinojosa	McKeon
Cramer	Hobson	McKinney
Crenshaw	Hoefel	Meehan
Crowley	Hoekstra	Meek (FL)
Cubin	Holden	Meeks (NY)
Cummings	Holt	Mica
Cunningham	Honda	Millender-
Davis (CA)	Hooley	McDonald